

Whereas, Indiana University Bloomington, its schools, and departments have a long and important tradition of subscribing to principles of faculty governance, as exercised both through formal faculty bodies as well as less formally through the involvement and consultation of faculty on academic matters in their schools and departments; and

Whereas, in light of recent controversies at other institutions, the Bloomington Faculty Council finds it useful to reaffirm two central tenets of faculty governance and academic freedom, which we believe are consistent with established IUB campus practices as well as the principles by which American universities have long operated; therefore, be it

Resolved:

1) Policies as well as individual decisions on appointment, promotion, tenure, conduct, discipline, and dismissal of faculty are primarily a faculty responsibility (see Bloomington Faculty Council Constitution, Art. II, Secs. 2.1(A)(1)(F), 2.1(B)(11), and 2.2(B)), guided by established traditions of collegial consultation and subject to relevant campus procedures (see, e.g., <https://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/academicguide/index.php/B. Recruitment for Academic Positions>).

2) Faculty have the same right and duty as all other citizens to participate ~~responsibly~~ in debates on matters of public concern, including the right to express unpopular opinions. We underscore the IU Policy on Academic Freedom, which has been repeatedly affirmed by the Board of Trustees and faculty councils, and which states in relevant part: "No limitation shall be placed upon the teacher's and librarian's freedom of exposition of the subject in the classroom, or library, or on the expression of it outside... In public utterances the teacher and librarian shall be free of institutional control, but when either the teacher or librarian writes or speaks as a citizen, an endeavor should be made to avoid appearing as a spokesman for the University. The teacher or librarian should recognize that a professional position in the community involves the obligation to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the right of others to express their views."

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